

ABSTRACT

A data structure is described which enables at least one behavioural characteristic of a first entity to be determined by providing at least one semantic information element as meta-data which describes a characteristic of a discernable feature of the first entity using an interpretable compiler. This semantic meta-data can be compared to meta-data providing semantic information describing a characteristic of a discernable feature of at least one other entity. Meta-data may be passed dynamically with messages exchange by ORBs, or alternatively, it may be stored. In either case, a compatibility statement can be generated which collates the semantic information elements of the first entity with the semantic information elements of the at least one other entity. Each pair of collated semantic information elements can be analysed to determine at least one behavioural characteristic of the entities in the relationship, for example, whether the interface of the first entity and the interface of the second entity are compatible and the resulting behaviour expected in any ensuing dialogue between the first and second entity.